

**Sentence
Fluency**

Building
with the
6 traits

Conventions

Organization



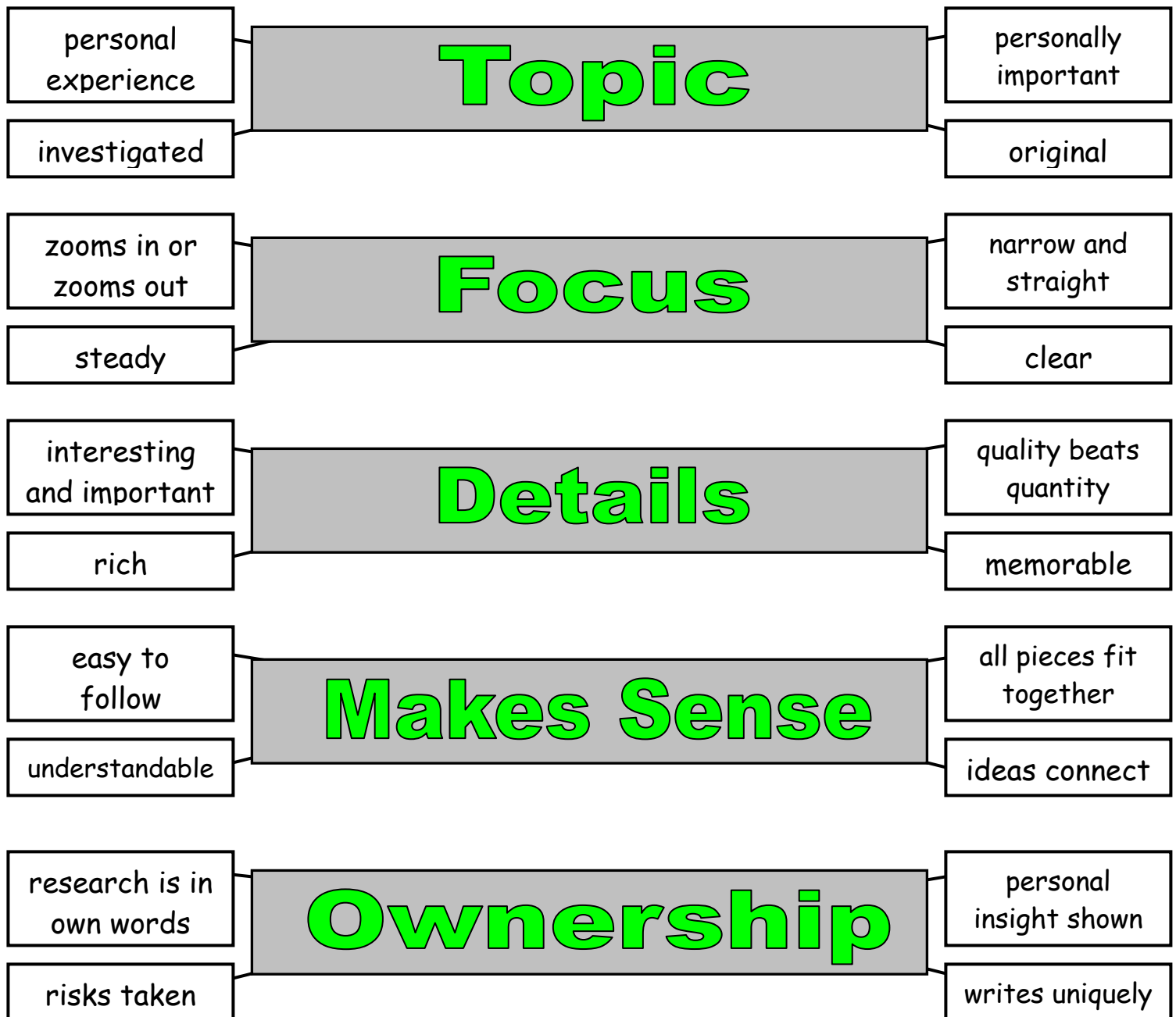
Idea Development

**Word
Choice**

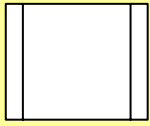
Voice

Idea Development

Like the foundation of a house, IDEA DEVELOPMENT serves as the solid base on which a good piece of writing rests. If you start with a solid idea, your writing can grow as big as you want.



Organization



ORGANIZATION is the structure of writing. Just as a house has an entrance, an exit, hallways that connect, and a sensible layout, so too does a piece of good writing. Blueprints are drawn before a house is built; writing should be "blue-printed" too!

Blueprints:



- ☐ appropriate graphic organizer used to plan writing
- ☐ the order of the writing makes sense
- ☐ the most important ideas receive the most attention
- ☐ transitions sound natural

Beginning:



- ☐ hooks or grabs the reader
- ☐ an inviting lead
- ☐ effective topic sentence
- ☐ shows where writing is going

Middle:



- ☐ parts fit together smoothly
- ☐ subtopics or parts are clearly separated
- ☐ ideas connect
- ☐ contains the "heart" of the writing

End:



- ☐ might leave you thinking or wondering
- ☐ makes the writing feel complete
- ☐ leaves the reader feeling satisfied
- ☐ ties things together

Title:



- ☐ hints at the writing's big idea
- ☐ is catchy
- ☐ makes sense
- ☐ is memorable

The author's VOICE—a.k.a. you!—should be present in every piece of writing you make. Sometimes your presence needs to be strong, but sometimes it should be kept subtle. How will you ensure that your reader recognizes this as your writing?



- ☐ sounds honest
- ☐ sounds sincere
- ☐ shows passion
- ☐ shows confidence



- ☐ energetic
- ☐ heart-felt
- ☐ author shows feelings toward topic (tone)
- ☐ author invites feelings from reader (mood)



- ☐ be either a storyteller or reporter
- ☐ showcase your techniques
- ☐ sound like you
- ☐ show personal risk



- ☐ shows an opinion
- ☐ considers perspectives
- ☐ audience awareness
- ☐ audience sensitivity



- ☐ writer knows own voice
- ☐ shows insight
- ☐ sounds believable
- ☐ writer owns topic

The roof of a house—though planned from the beginning—is not built first. Think about **CONVENTIONS** near the end of your process.

Conventions

Spelling

- ☐ Know your “sight words”!
- ☐ Use the dictionary!
- ☐ Abbreviate correctly!
- ☐ Double-check your vocabulary words!

Punctuation

- ☐ Check end punctuation! (periods, question marks, exclamation points)
- ☐ Check middle punctuation! (commas, apostrophes, semi-colons)
- ☐ Check dialogue punctuation!
- ☐ Check your hyphens!

Capitalization

- ☐ Capitalize proper names!
- ☐ Capitalize sentence beginnings!
- ☐ Capitalize titles!
- ☐ Don't mis-use/overuse capitals.

Grammar

- ☐ Check your noun and verb agreement!
- ☐ Check your noun and pronoun agreement!
- ☐ Check appropriateness: “gonna” versus “going to”!
- ☐ Double check verb tense!

Spacing

- ☐ Indent those paragraphs!
- ☐ Use the right amount of space between words!
- ☐ Don't put blank space between paragraphs!
- ☐ Use appropriate margins!

Sentence Fluency

Just as white clouds float peacefully in the sky, or thunder clouds arrive with alarm, sentences and phrases float through a piece of writing. Do you want your SENTENCE FLUENCY to be subtle or alarming?

Variety of Sounds

- repetition
- natural sounding
- rhythm and cadence
- experiments with language

Variety of Beginnings

- prepositions
- conjunctions
- participial phrases
- question words

Variety of Sentences

- complex and simple
- declarative and interrogative
- exclamatory and imperative
- short and long

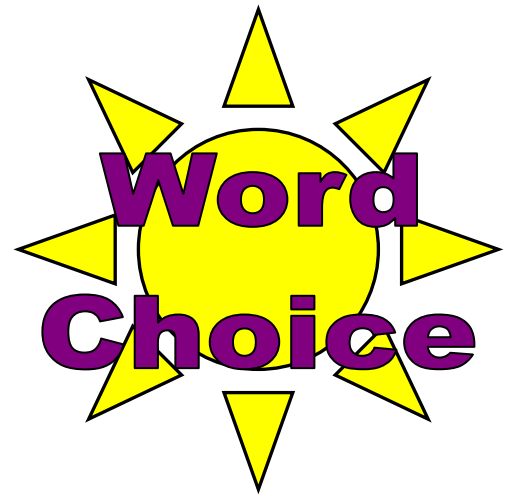
Variety of Connectors

- transitions
- connecting words and phrases
- sentence flow together
- experiments with colons and semi-colons

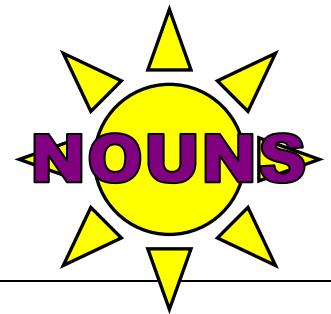
Has Readability

- carefully crafted
- smooth and flowing
- sounds natural when read aloud
- parallelism

WORD CHOICE—like the sun in the sky—can accomplish many things: comfort or sunburn, thirst or relaxation. The words you choose to include in your writing have profound impact on your reader.



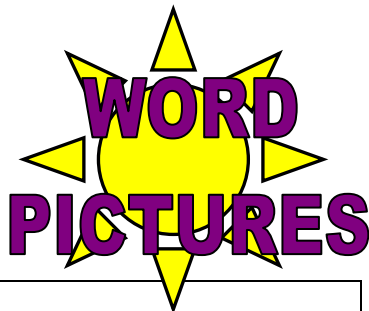
- precise verbs
- unique verbs
- writer considers synonyms
- balance of action and linking verbs



- precise nouns
- unique nouns
- purposeful use of pronouns
- correct noun and pronoun agreement



- precise adjectives
- unique adjectives
- writer considers synonyms
- using fewer quality adjectives is better than using a string of weak adjectives



- sensory images
- memorable phrases
- uses word pictures when appropriate
- verbs, adjectives, and nouns work together



- personification
- tries new vocabulary
- onomatopoeia
- effective similes and metaphors
- alliteration